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SERIAL NO. 10/095,489 Amendment dated November 6, 2003 Reply to Office Action of August 7, 2003 PATENT Docket RAL920000057US1

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Date: November 6, 2003

In re Application of: W.G. Holland, et al

Filed: April 18, 2000

For: Computer System and Method with Internal Use of

Network Switching

Serial Number: 09/551,790

Art Unit: 2608

Examiner: John A. Lane

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 7, 2003 presenting a restriction requirement, please note a provisional election of the claims of Group 1 for prosecution at this time.



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It is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is in error and the requirement is hereby traversed. The claims of Group 1, Claims 1 through 4, are apparatus claims directed to a computer system. The claims of Group 2, Claims 5 and 6, are method claims directed to the operation of a computer system as claimed in Claims 1 through 4. The inventions of the grouped claims are viewed by the Examiner as subcombinations useable together in a single combination. It is submitted that the claims are to an apparatus combination and to the operation of that apparatus combination. The Examiner has deemed the subject matter of the claims to be independent if it can be shown that four relationships are present, referring to MPEP 806.04 and 808.01. The Examiner asserts that the combinations as claimed exhibit conditions of having differing modes of operation, different functions, and different effects. It is submitted that these assertions reflect an incomplete understanding of the claimed inventions, which are related in such a manner that all claims should be examined together.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance of the claims presented is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel E. McConnell Atty. Reg. No. 20,360 Attorney of Record

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